

Minutes for March 18, 2022, Finance, Performance and Accountability Committee Meeting

Call to Order -- Commissioner Eric Tucker, Chair, called the meeting to order. The Committee did not approve the minutes of the February 18, 2022, meeting as there were not enough commissioners in attendance. Chair Tucker suggested they would approve at the April meeting.

Supplemental for Community College of Aurora – Ashlee Pate, CDHE (Colorado Department of Higher Education), introduced a supplemental for cash spending authority for an addition of the BuildStrong Academy to the Diesel and Support Services project at the Community College of Aurora. Commissioner Kostenbauer asked if this request was to increase student support services. Ashlee Pate confirmed that this request would be to increase classroom space for the BuildStrong Academy from 500 up to 1,000 students as CCA currently has a waitlist for this program. Both Commissioner Kostenbauer and Commissioner Tucker agreed the request seemed straight forward and that it would be acceptable to present to the full CCHS (Colorado Commission on Higher Education) at the April 1 meeting.

Policy vs Statute on Capital Adjustments – Ashlee Pate, CDHE, mentioned that the commissioners wanted to have more of a discussion about whether it is policy or statute that requires IHEs (Institutions of Higher Education) (Institutions of Higher Education) to change a scope of work with CCHS prior to getting bids. Commissioner Tucker and Commissioner Kostenbauer discussed these presenting challenges to why it could prevent IHEs from moving forward as efficiently if they were required to get bids as often the price is not necessarily locked in place.

Debt Relief Update – Mitch Karstens, CDHE, gave an update that using the capital request project as a way to relief debt. This has been talked about, as Western Colorado University, has asked to look at this. This update is to let FPA know that this concept came up with a joint meeting of CDC and JBC. JBC staff recommended that an RFI be sent from JBC to FPA for information, parameters, and insight into a process like this. The RFI is not expected until after the legislative session closes for this year. A change to this would require a bill, as well as changes to several processes at CDC, CCHS, OSA (Office of the State Architect), and others. As more information is released and when the RFO comes in we will notify FPA.

Figure Setting – Mitch Karstens, CDHE, gave an update on the figure setting timeline and process. As of this meeting JBC (Joint Budget Committee) meet and approved all aspects of the Departments budget except for Step 1,2, and 3. This action was delayed at JBC waiting for the state revenue projections that were to be released on March 17th. Separate bills are anticipated to be run for the Single Stop software, which allows IHEs to connect all services that a student might need into one application and process. The other stand-alone bill will be to change the scope of the Department to include outreach. The department has completed this work in the past but under a grant, to use state funds JBC wants this action to be called out in charge of the department. They did not have an issue with the proposal just that the charge of the department needs to match.